

men, women, and children. With her assistance, the Northern Plains Tribal Epidemiology Center opened and serves the tribal nations through its many projects and partnerships with the Indian Health Service and other Federal agencies.

A Sicangu Lakota and Ihanktonwan Dakota, Carole Anne grew up with the Lakota culture all around her; as a young child, she spent much time with her grandmother and great-grandmother, learning the Lakota values. She went to boarding school in Marty, SD, and then on to high school at Saint Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Sioux Indian Reservation. Her life's work included water rights and women's rights, and, most recently, health care advocacy. As the executive director to the Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, she worked to incorporate traditional customs into the contemporary programming so the language and the culture would continue. She led many conferences and workshops around the United States on tribal health care issues. Carole Anne was well known for her humor—she would light up a room with her jokes and laughter. Oftentimes her sense of humor interjected itself as she led some of the most serious discussions on health care disparities. Her use of the phrase "Don't get sick after June" was in reference to the lack of funding the Indian Health Service has at that time of the fiscal year which meant that services were unavailable to many tribal members. While this is a very serious issue, Carole Anne was able to make light of the situation and remained focused on bettering health care for native peoples throughout Indian Country.

Her Lakota name was Waste Wayankapi Win, meaning "When People See You, They See Something Good." How fitting a name for someone who would spread "good" throughout Indian Country. On Friday, January 25, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer, Carole Anne Heart made her journey to the spirit world. I extend my sympathy to her family and those close to her. She will be missed greatly by everyone she touched on her journey through this world.●

HONORING ESTHER G. KEE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of the Senate the work of Mrs. Esther G. Kee as she retires from the presidency of the US-Asia Institute. Mrs. Kee came to Washington, DC, in 1977 to raise awareness of the unique role Asian Pacific Americans could play in facilitating communication and interaction between the United States and the countries and people of East Asia.

Following the first national gathering at the White House in 1978 of Asian American leaders throughout the United States, Mrs. Kee and her colleague, the late Joji Konoshima, were encouraged by then-President Jimmy

Carter to work closely with the Honorable Richard C. Holbrooke, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. An advisory council on East Asia was formed to provide insight to the State Department on issues impacting the region. From this, the U.S.-Asia Institute was established as a nongovernmental organization in 1979 to serve as an independent voice for the U.S.-Asia relationship. Mrs. Kee and Mr. Konoshima played a key role in the historic visit of Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the United States, traveling with him to New York, Houston, and San Francisco, and represented the U.S. overseas on numerous delegations.

Mrs. Kee has worked steadily and effectively through the years to build awareness and foster mutual understanding between the United States and countries of East Asia. This quiet diplomacy has earned her the respect of many on Capitol Hill, in various administrations and in East Asia diplomatic, business, and academic circles. She has asked for no public recognition, but as she retires from the organization she cofounded, we feel it is time to say thank you for her commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.

From small interpersonal exchanges to facilitating contacts through international conferences at the U.S. Department of State and on Capitol Hill, the Institute has strived to strengthen ties by promoting two-way dialogue between the United States and countries of East Asia. One cornerstone of the institute's engagement was the establishment of congressional staff delegations to Asia. Since 1985, these official visits have greatly increased the awareness, knowledge and understanding of Asian and U.S. views, providing invaluable opportunities for U.S. congressional advisers to gain a firsthand view of the region, its culture, its governments, and its people. More than 800 staff members have traveled to China alone since 1985 on 70 delegations.

Mrs. Kee leaves an important legacy of mutual communication and understanding, and even in her retirement, she remains determined the work she began almost 30 years ago will continue. The U.S.-Asia Institute will carry on Mrs. Kee's work, promoting dialog on international issues of common interest to the United States and participating Asian nations, whenever and however possible.

As she retires, we say thank you to Mrs. Kee for her sage counsel, her vision, her quiet behind-the-scenes diplomacy, and her unwavering commitment to the U.S.-Asia relationship.●

RECOGNIZING THE INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL LITERACY

● Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, today I honor a small business whose admirable goal is to educate citizens about personal finance. The Institute for Financial Literacy, headquartered in Maine's largest city of Portland, pro-

vides a valuable and unique resource for taxpayers and business owners alike—specifically those who have gone through bankruptcy—to better understand their economic situation.

Founded in 2002 by Leslie Linfield, the Institute for Financial Literacy has grown exponentially in the past 6 years, and now has a team of 50 employees. The institute employs a multitude of programs and formats to train clients on various issues related to the betterment of financial aptitude. Its Personal Finance Series is a combination of three books that aim to demonstrate the principles of budgeting, credit and debit management, and investment and retirement planning. The company's Web site contains several instrumental tools, including a budget worksheet and a financial goal action plan, free for anyone wishing to monitor their finances closely. The Web site includes several papers on legal matters and money management strategies by the company's employees. Additionally, it offers users the ability to sign up for the institute's electronic newsletter.

Above and beyond the invaluable information provided on its Web page, the institute provides critical counseling services to assist those in need of financial advice. In 2007 alone, the institute's employees served over 50,000 individuals throughout the country, helping them make better and more informed decisions about their personal financial decisions. Services for people who have filed for bankruptcy include both pre- and post-filing FreshStart counseling and education programs, all delivered over the Internet, phone, or in person, to give clients the financial management skills and principles necessary to succeed in their future endeavors. To make its employees' expertise available to the largest number of people, the institute is open for 13 hours each weekday with additional hours on Saturdays.

Furthermore, the institute partners with nonprofit, educational and governmental organizations to integrate its programs into their existing services. These partners include groups with a notable influence in the realm of financial responsibility, including the "Save For Your Future" campaign that urges Americans to develop private individual pensions to supplement their Social Security earnings, and the American Bankruptcy Institute, an organization dedicated to research and education on matters related to insolvency. Similarly, the Institute for Financial Literacy has partnered with local organizations to create programs that help Mainers improve their financial and employment opportunities.

In its short history, the Institute for Financial Literacy has already benefited tens of thousands of people struggling to recover from bankruptcy. By developing high-quality, user-friendly financial literacy programs, its educational and counseling assistance renders an enormous boon for those looking to advance in life. I thank Leslie